

SUBJECT: [*Action Required*] Travelers Abroad: COVID-19 Guidance from the U

March 12, 2020

Effective immediately, the University is suspending all University travel, and requiring all travelers currently abroad to make immediate travel arrangements to return stateside. This includes:

- All students participating in University-affiliated student programs abroad,
- All University-affiliated student travel in international locations,
- All employee travelers currently abroad,
- Note that the University Asia Campus remains open and operational, and any student travelers currently abroad participating in UAC programs are exempt from this travel suspension

All UU travelers abroad should make arrangements at this time to return home. ***Please note that U students and employees do not have the option of remaining abroad under university sponsorship.***

University staff in departments coordinating international student programs will be in touch with students abroad to provide additional guidance and assistance, and all students and employees are expected to remain in communication with their respective University units.

You are likely aware of [President Trump's recent announcement](#) that foreign nationals who have been travelling in or through Europe (defined as the [Schengen Area](#)) in the past 14 days will not be able to travel to the U.S. for 30 days, effective this Friday at midnight, EST.

Several other updates from international health, safety and security benchmarking organizations over the last 48 hours have confirmed the increased uncertainty of the global travel landscape in relation to COVID-19 outbreak(s):

- The [World Health Organization's declaration](#) of COVID-19 as a global pandemic
- US Department of State's [Global Level 3 Health Travel](#) (Reconsider Travel)
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [Global COVID-19 Outbreak Notice](#)

The [Department of Homeland Security](#), has since clarified the President's statements:

'The proclamation suspends the entry of most foreign nationals who have been in certain European countries at any point during the 14 days prior to their scheduled arrival to the United States...This does not apply to legal permanent residents, (generally) immediate family members of U.S. citizens, and other individuals who are identified in the proclamation.'

This clarification indicates that U.S citizens and legal permanent residents will be able to return to the U.S. from Europe as planned, and in turn that the suspension does not apply to flights out of the United Kingdom.

In light of these recent developments, the University is taking immediate action to secure the well-being of UU travelling students, faculty and staff.

All University student and employee travelers are required to make immediate plans to return stateside. We are sensitive to the fact that many University travelers currently abroad have been in locations exposed to the virus. As such - the University is requiring all travelers returning from international locations to submit their travel information to the U using the [Returning Traveler Self-Reporting Form](#) online. We strongly recommend that upon their return to their homes, students comply with public

health directives to prevent potentially exposing others to the virus. In accordance with current University policy – travelers returning to the UU campus from international locations with [CDC-Level 3 Travel Advisories](#) (China, Iran, South Korea, and [European Countries](#)), as well as any returning travelers with flu-like symptoms or health concerns, are required to self-isolate for 14 days, and are prohibited from participating in any activities on the University SLC campus.

The decision to cancel all University travel and student programs abroad for the spring was made in consideration of the rapidly changing environment. Student support at academic programs locations around the world may not be available since many universities, partners and providers are temporarily closing their facilities. In addition, future travel restrictions could limit options for students' safe and accessible return. Furthermore, there are no assurances that normal activities will be able to resume in the near term.

We acknowledge that these are dynamic circumstances and will provide more information on programming options and answer student questions as the situation unfolds. Your cooperation and support are appreciated as we work to secure the safety of students travelers and find solutions so that they may continue their academic activities, with as little disruption as possible.

At this time, UU travelers changing travel arrangements due to the COVID-19 international outbreak(s) are encouraged to work directly with their airline providers to manage ticket changes, and to retain receipts and document expenses associated with such changes. UU travelers are also able to work directly with the University International Assistance Provider (AXA) for travel booking assistance (*AXA information is attached*).

Please continue to monitor the University's COVID 19 site: <https://dps.utah.edu/coronavirus/>

Safe travels,

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